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A NEW RODENT OF THE GENUS NESORYZOMYS FROM THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS*

BY

ROBERT T. ORR

Assistant Curator, Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy
California Academy of Sciences

The native species of Galapagos rodents, as known at present, belong to two closely related oryzomine genera, *Oryzomys* and *Nesoryzomys*. To the former genus belong *Oryzomys galapagoensis* of Chatham Island and *O. bauri* of Barrington Island, although there is some question as to the valid distinction between these two forms (*cf.* Osgood, 1929; Gyldenstolpe, 1932). *Nesoryzomys* was proposed by Heller (1904, p. 241) to contain the species *indefessus* of Indefatigable and South Seymour islands and *narboroughi* of Narborough Island. It was not until 1929 that the third known species of this genus, *Nesoryzomys darwini*, was described by Osgood (*supra cit.*, p. 23) on the basis of four specimens collected that year on Indefatigable Island where only *indefessus* had previously been known to occur.

The California Academy of Sciences' Expedition to the Galapagos Islands in 1905-1906 succeeded in bringing back series of all endemic species of rodents then known to occur on these islands, with the exception of *Oryzomys galapagoensis* which, so far as known, has not been taken since Darwin's visit in 1835. These series, however, were never given critical study. It is not surprising, therefore, that in the course of carefully rechecking the identification of Galapagos

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rodents in the mammal collection of the Academy certain interesting features were brought to light. First, the presence of two examples of *Nesoryzomys darwini*, collected at Academy Bay, Indefatigable Island, on July 16 and 17, 1906, was revealed. This brings the known number of specimens of this species in collections to six. Both of these individuals, as judged by the unworn condition of the molariform teeth, are subadults closely approaching maturity.

Of equal, if not greater, interest, however, was the discovery of four unidentified specimens of the genus *Nesoryzomys* taken on James Island from which no mammals have previously been recorded. Further investigation showed that these four individuals, three old adults and one subadult, while obviously possessing generic characters ascribed to *Nesoryzomys*, were distinctly different from any of the three heretofore known species of this genus.

It is proposed that this new form be named in honor of Harry Schelwald Swarth, late Curator of the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, whose work has greatly added to our knowledge of the fauna of the Galapagos Islands.

Nesoryzomys swarthi Orr, new species

Plate 25

Diagnosis.—Size large, as in *Nesoryzomys narboroughi* but in color of upper parts similar to *N. indefessus;* hairs on ventral surface of body tipped with whitish. Skull large and heavy with rostrum broad and molariform teeth large.

Color.—*Nesorozomys swarthi* is indistinguishable in dorsal coloration from *N. indefessus*, although the hairs of the ventral parts lack much of the yellowish tipping seen on examples of the latter species, being nearly white.

Skull.—Size large, with brain case proportionately long as in *N. narboroughi*, rather than short and broad as in *N. indefessus;* nasals broad with rostrum proportionately very wide; anterior palatine foramina large; palate short with anterior part of pterygoid fossa nearly on a plane with the last molariform teeth; auditory bullae larger than in either *narboroughi* or *indefessus;* molariform teeth larger than those possessed by any other members of this genus.

Type:—Adult male, skin and skull; No. 2556, Museum California Academy of Sciences; Mamm. Coll.; from vicinity of **Sulivan** [=Sullivan] **Bay, James Island, Galapagos Islands;** collected July 28, 1906, by J. S. Hunter.

Remarks.—While *Nesoryzomys narboroughi* and *N. indefessus* differ strikingly from each other in color (the former species being quite blackish), size of hind foot and length of tail, the cranial differences distinguishing the two species are relatively slight. *N. swarthi* resembles *indefessus* in color, but in body size, length of tail and hind foot very much resembles *narboroughi*. It thus possesses certain characters in common with each of these species. Cranially, however, it differs from either of these forms to a greater degree